

# CITY Visions

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • APRIL 2003

## SWIMMING IN WATER FUN



The Morgan Hill Aquatics Complex will be breaking ground this summer and is scheduled to be completed in 2004. This exciting project includes a wide assortment of aquatics facilities for recreation and competition alike. It will bring long sought after relief to the many Morgan Hill swimmers and water lovers that have been traveling to distant facilities or coping with overcrowded local facilities for many years.

The Complex will be on Condit Road between Dunne and Tennant - just south of the current Soccer Complex. In addition to a poolhouse, office, and concession area, the Complex will include the following facilities:

- 4,000 square foot recreational pool;
- Water Slide Pool;
- 25 Yard Instructional Pool;
- 800 Square Foot "Spray Ground;"
- 50 Meter Competition Pool; and
- Extensive Lawn and Picnic Areas.

The City Council has directed staff to design and build facilities with high environmental standards. In addition to extensive solar heating, the Complex will include a variety of energy efficient and

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- RECYCLE DAYS INFORMATION
- ART ALACARTE PAINTS THE TOWN
- GROWTH CONTROL EXTENSION
- BUTTERFIELD BOULEVARD GROWING
- NEW SISTER CITY

### PERCHLORATE UPDATE

The City of Morgan Hill announced that trace amounts of the contaminant perchlorate have been found at another municipal well. A test of water taken from this well, known as the Dunne #2 well, indicated that perchlorate was present at a level of four parts per billion (ppb.) Other tests taken from all active City wells, including the two wells that were closed in early March, indicated that perchlorate was not present above the four ppb State of California action level.

The City immediately shut down the Dunne #2 well to continue its very conservative approach to this problem. In addition, the wells taken off-line in early March, Condit and Nordstrom, will remain off-line at this time. The City's action to turn off the wells is above and beyond the requirements of California law which only requires public notification under certain circumstances. As there is currently not a maximum standard for perchlorate contamination, State law would allow water suppliers to continue delivering water containing perchlorate to customers up to 40 ppb as long as it notifies them of the contamination. Millions of Southern Californians are drinking water with perchlorate that exceeds the four ppb action level, as

SEE "PERCHLORATE" PAGE 6


# MORGAN HILL'S SECOND SISTER CITY – SAN MARTIN DE HIDALGO, MEXICO

**O**n March 19<sup>th</sup>, the City Council, acting on a recommendation from the Morgan Hill Sister City Committee, passed a resolution to make San Martin de Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico, Morgan Hill's second sister city.

San Martin is located in the beautiful Amica Valley, in the eastern foothills of the Western Sierra Madre Mountains, about 50 miles southwest of Guadalajara. Like Morgan Hill's other sister city, San Casciano, Italy, it is a small city but governs the surrounding unincorporated area as well. It lists its urban population as 25,000 and its total population at 50,000 people.

Prior to the Spanish Conquest, San Martin was a small village settled by a branch of the Aztecs called Tepehuanes. In 1540, a royal decree renamed the city "San Martin of the Limestone." In 1883 it was renamed San Martin de Hidalgo in honor of the "Father of Mexico," Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, who fought in the war for independence (1810 -1821).

San Martin is primarily an agricultural area that is actively promoting tourism. It is a member of Sister Cities International and has been seeking a California sister with interests in agriculture and in establishing a bilateral business exchange. Its mayor, Dr. Carlos Rosas-Comacho, led an eight member delegation on a two day tour of Morgan Hill last summer. Before returning to San Martin, Dr. Rosas expressed a strong desire to formalize sister city ties with Morgan Hill.


The City Council resolution is the first action in the formalizing process. The Morgan Hill Sister City Committee is now coordinating with San Martin on a ceremony where both Mayors will sign a joint proclamation between their cities. That ceremony will take place in San Martin, possibly in October. If you are interested in joining in sister cities, or assisting in one of its activities, contact Chuck Dillmann at 778-8829 or [chuckd@garlic.com](mailto:chuckd@garlic.com), or Ernie Rusconi at [ernie@rftw.com](mailto:ernie@rftw.com). 

## WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION:

### *Avoid Mosquito Bites to Avoid Infection*

**A**s you may have heard, the West Nile virus is expected to reach California in the near future. This virus is spread to humans and animals bitten by infected mosquitos. While human illness from the West Nile virus is rare, even in areas where the virus has been reported, the fact that the disease can have fatal effects has generated appropriate concern.

You can reduce your chances of becoming ill by protecting yourself from mosquito bites. To avoid mosquito bites:

- *Apply insect repellent containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) when you're outdoors. Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE, as printed on the product. Avoid applying repellent to the hands of children.*
- *Place mosquito netting over infant carriers when you are outdoors with babies.*
- *When possible, wear long-sleeved clothes and long pants treated with repellents containing permethrin or DEET since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Do not apply repellents containing permethrin directly to exposed skin. If you spray your clothing, there is no need to spray repellent containing DEET on the skin under your clothing.*
- *Install or repair tight-fitting window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors.*
- *Consider staying indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening, which are peak mosquito biting times.*
- *Limit the number of places available for mosquitos to lay their eggs by eliminating standing water sources from around your home.* 

## CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AIMS TO SAFEGUARD COMMUNITY

The City of Morgan Hill's Code Enforcement Program is administered through the Building Division of the Community Development Department. The primary purpose of our program is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life and limb, health, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction and maintenance of all buildings and structures within our City. The established standard within our Municipal Code helps us create a City of which we can be proud.

The program is primarily reactive and responds to complaints as they are received. Some of the most common complaints include grading without permits, illegal occupancy use, and the maintenance of buildings. On average, this office receives thirty-five complaints per month. Along with the formal complaints, there are numerous City-initiated contacts made in an informative manner to address issues that affect the public health, safety and welfare. The majority of the complaints are resolved cooperatively by the City connecting and working with the property or business owner.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding our Code Enforcement Program, or need to register a specific complaint, please contact the Building Division at 779-7241 or visit the City's website at [www.morgan-hill.ca.gov](http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov).

*Article by Robert Martin, Code Enforcement Officer, 779-7241 or [rmartin@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:rmartin@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov)*



## BUTTERFIELD BOULEVARD CONNECTION PLANS AHEAD

Construction is planned to begin in May on the final connection for Butterfield Boulevard between Tennant Avenue and Cochrane Road. When Butterfield Boulevard construction was begun several years ago, traffic relief along Monterey Road was one of the benefits envisioned. Another benefit envisioned for this alternative north/south cross-town route was that of helping the City's overall economic growth by improving access to substantial tracts of commercial and industrial land. With the commencement of this Tennant-to-Cochrane route, the completion of a long-anticipated convenience for both residents and businesses is in sight.

Planned over a number of years and constructed in phases, beginning in the spring of 1993, the first phase of the project brought Main Street and East Dunne Avenue together. At the time, it was called "Sutter Boulevard."

Next to come was construction of the Dunne Avenue to San Pedro link. Following that, a major accomplishment came with the tie-in between Main Street and the portion along the Morgan Hill Business Parks off of Cochrane Road. This phase created a two-mile street that brought significant access to a number of businesses and industrial sites, as well as providing more convenience for general traffic activity.

With the connecting 4,000-foot link that will begin in May, the street will cover a total distance of 2.5 miles. Project manager Julie Behzad expects construction to be wrapped up by the end of this year.

*Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337 or [jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov)*



# WATER RATES ADJUSTED


The City recently commissioned a thorough analysis and ten-year financial forecast for our water and sewer utility systems. The analysis, first presented to the City Council on November 13, 2002, by the consulting firm of Hilton, Farnkopf & Hobson, evaluated both revenues and the anticipated costs faced by the system for expansion and maintenance. The results of this study recommended minor water rate adjustments and no change in sewer rates at this time.

Based on a ten-year financial forecast for water activities, the City's Finance and Audit Committee recommended that the best approach to recover costs of operating and maintaining the City's water system was to implement rate adjustments of 2% each year for the next five years. Following a Public Hearing on February 5, the City Council approved this slight

increase. A 2% increase in water rates will be effective April 1 and applies to all water commodity and service rates for residential and commercial customers. An annual 2% increase will also be effective each January 1 for an additional four years, 2004 through 2007.

As you may recall, the last time water rates were adjusted was 1997. Since this time, while some costs have skyrocketed, the City has been able to avoid rate increases until now. The financial plan for our utility systems includes funds to adequately maintain and safeguard our drinking water supplies. Reserve balances are maintained to ensure that adequate resources are available when needed and to guard against fluctuations in the economy. Tar-

get reserves for operations, capital costs and rate stabilization will be met by fiscal year 2006/2007.

For a complete list of rates, or additional information, please contact the Utility Billing department at 779-7221. 

Tina Reza, Assistant Finance Director, 779-7237,  
[rezat@morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:rezat@morgan-hill.ca.gov)



## IN THE DARK?



You leave for work in the morning and it's dark. You come home from work at night and it's dark.

Especially during the late fall and winter months, residents come to depend on the extra bit of illumination provided by city streetlights.

One of the city's responsibilities is to ensure that these streetlights operate dependably so that you as a resident can enjoy an extra bit of safety, security, and convenience in your neighborhood.

Your assistance in notifying us when lights aren't operating properly helps us in providing you this service. What kind of information do we need in a report on a nonworking street light? Ideally, we'd like to know:


- *the pole number (usually on a metal tag located at about eye level)*
- *whether the pole is wood or metal*
- *the address*
- *the cross streets*

Since it isn't always possible to get all of this information, we ask only that you provide as much as you can. We'll take it from there. Once we receive this information, we forward it on to Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E).

Keep in mind that since PG&E crews will be carrying out this work during daylight hours (when streetlights are off), these crews are relying on the pole identification information that we have relayed on to them from you. Thus, the more detail they have, the easier it will be for them to immediately identify the

problem streetlight once they arrive in your neighborhood.

How long does it take to get a light working again? About two weeks. Because a "bucket truck" is required for this type of work, these vehicles are usually dispatched to general geographic areas only when a number of repair calls have accumulated within that area. This kind of batch scheduling of jobs makes for more cost-effective use of crews and equipment.

Contact the Public Works Department at 776-7337 or [pw-info@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:pw-info@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov) to report a streetlight out. During normal work hours, a receptionist will take your call - but you may also leave a detailed message after-hours and on weekends. Either way, you're helping us in our mission of providing reliable service to your neighborhood. 

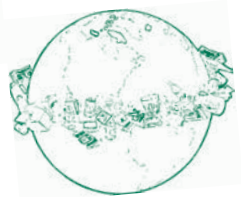
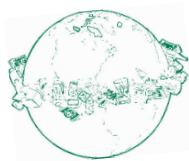
Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337 or [jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov)

On Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3, City of Morgan Hill residents will be able to drop off a variety of recyclable items at the San Martin Transfer Station free of charge. The transfer station is located at 14070 Llagas Avenue in San Martin, and is open 8am-4:30pm for the event.

#### WHAT CAN I BRING TO RECYCLE DAYS?

- Untreated, unfinished, and unpainted wood.
- Metal appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, washers, dryers, and hot water heaters. There will be a \$22 charge for certification of Freon removal from appliances that contain or at one time contained Freon.
- Scrap metal: This includes bicycles, metal lawn mowers (fuel & oil removed), microwaves, or any item that contains over 50% metal.
- Computer Equipment: There will be a \$15.00 disposal fee collected for each monitor. Cash only; no checks or credit cards accepted! Monitors with broken or cracked glass will not be accepted.
- Small household electronics: Stereos, VCR's, telephones, cameras, alarm clocks, fax machines, etc.

RECYCLE  
DAYS  
ARE HERE  
AGAIN!



#### WHAT CAN'T I BRING?

Anything not listed above. Some examples would be:

- Treated, painted or compressed wood, plywood, or particle board.
- Trees, tree stumps, or yard waste.
- Plastics such as toys, lawn furniture, water softeners, pools, etc.
- Televisions.
- Propane tanks.
- Household hazardous waste. If you have hazardous waste, call the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 299-7300.

#### HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

- You must reside within the City limits.
- Your garbage account must be current (no past due balance).
- Be prepared to show your driver's license.
- Event is for residential customers only. No business recyclables accepted.
- Event staff will have a list of customers printed to verify residence.

#### WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

If you bring in more than one material, please have them separated in your vehicle. You will need to drive to several areas at the transfer station to drop off recyclables in the appropriate areas. Commingled material may be charged as garbage unless it is separated.

It is impossible to list all unacceptable items! Recycle Days is ONLY for materials listed above which are properly separated and sorted. Residents bringing other materials will be charged for disposal at the normal transfer station rates. Loads are inspected and the Transfer Station reserves the right to refuse items that are not accepted by their recycling contractors.

For more information, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247 or [environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov).



#### ***“COMPLEX” FROM PAGE 1***

environmentally sensitive features. While the recreational amenities will operate primarily during the hot summer months, when water fun is most popular, the competition pools will operate on a year-round schedule.

ELS Architects has completed the conceptual design of the facility and has nearly completed the construction drawings. Construction contracts will be bid out in the late Spring. The City is now finalizing a contract with Nova Partners to manage the construction at the complex. Hard construction costs are estimated to be \$8.5 million of Redevelopment Agency funds.

For more information about the Complex, contact Jim Dumas at 776-7373. 

*Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247 or [teulo@morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:teulo@morgan-hill.ca.gov)*


#### ***“PERCHLORATE” FROM PAGE 1***

the Colorado River itself often contains higher levels of the contaminant.

Because of this contamination, the City will continue to rigorously test all City water wells to ensure that the water delivered to Morgan Hill customers continues to meet or exceed all State and Federal drinking water standards. In addition to ramping up its testing regimen, the City is doing the following three things to address its short-term and long-term water needs:

First, the City Council authorized the expenditures necessary to drill an emergency well in an area on the north edge of the community. A well at this location should be on-line in time to deliver water to Morgan Hill customers during the peak summer months.

Second, the City is beginning to explore options for securing water from other sources and developing the treatment and distribution system needed to deliver it.

Third, the City continues its efforts to ensure that the Olin Corporation fulfills its obligations, which have been publicly acknowledged, that it is responsible for the costs of remediation. 

*Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247 or [teulo@morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:teulo@morgan-hill.ca.gov)*

## **CITY BUDGET OPENS TO PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

**I**t's Budget Season at the City. Similar to prior years, the City Council will hold a public hearing in early June, and the budget should be adopted in mid-June.

The City is currently facing financial challenges from significant declines in sales taxes, hotel taxes and interest earnings. The State has reduced City revenues by \$200,000 and grabbed \$600,000 in redevelopment tax revenues in the current fiscal year. For the next budget year, the State is threatening to take \$1.3 million more in motor taxes and \$2 million more in redevelopment agency revenue. In response, the City has implemented a hiring freeze, reduced expenses, and dipped into its reserves. The City's 2003/2004 budget will seek to strategically cut expenses without dramatically cutting services.

#### ***Key dates to remember:***

May 14th -Proposed budget presentation at the general City Council meeting; June 11th -Public Hearing for the proposed budget; June 18th-Presentation of proposed budget for City Council adoption.

These dates are subject to change. Please check with the City at a later time for confirmed dates. 

*Article by Jack Dilles, Finance director, 779-7237, [dillesj@morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:dillesj@morgan-hill.ca.gov)*






## GROWTH CONTROL MEASURE UNDER STUDY

Since 1990, residential development in the City has been regulated by Measure P. Since Measure P expires in 2010 and the City's General Plan now addresses community development through 2020, the City Council convened a Task Force to propose an extension to Measure P that would control growth through 2020.

The Task Force has nearly finished developing a proposal for consideration by the City Council and is holding a Public Workshop at 7 p.m. on April 29 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. As currently drafted by the Task Force, the Measure P extension would continue the current rate of residential growth of about 250 homes per year until 2020. In addition, the City's growth control system would be amended to further encourage residential development closer to the Downtown area. Other minor changes are also being proposed.

The proposed extension to Measure P will be placed on an upcoming ballot and will need to be approved by Morgan Hill's voters in order to take effect. For more information, or for a copy of the suggested extension provisions, contact the Planning Division at 779-7247. 

Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247 or [teulo@morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:teulo@morgan-hill.ca.gov)



If you have small children, May 17th is a day to mark on your calendars. Our fourth annual Art Ala Carte will be held at the Community and Cultural Center from 10:30 - 3:00.

This very popular, low-cost event, perfect for children ages five through eleven, is comprised of many different stations at which each child gets to make a terrific art project.

Read *City Visions* next month for details about the planned art projects and entertainment. For more information, call 782-0008. 



# MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY GUIDE

## CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION:	4/2	7PM LIVE
	4/3	NOON REPLAY
	4/5	8PM REPLAY
	4/6	NOON REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	4/16	7PM LIVE
	4/17	NOON REPLAY
	4/19	8PM REPLAY
	4/20	NOON REPLAY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SESSION	4/23	7PM LIVE
	4/24	NOON REPLAY
	4/26	8PM REPLAY
	4/27	NOON REPLAY

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION:	4/8	7PM LIVE
	4/9	NOON REPLAY
	4/12	NOON REPLAY
	4/13	8PM REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	4/22	7PM LIVE
	4/23	NOON REPLAY
	4/26	NOON REPLAY
	4/27	8PM REPLAY

THE MAYORAL STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 9:00AM & 4:00PM DAILY  
7PM FRIDAY

MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE 10:00AM & 5:00PM DAILY  
GALA GRAND OPENING 8:00PM FRIDAY

## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

BEGIN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME • APRIL 6TH

NEW SEASON! COMPOSTING WORKSHOP • APRIL 19TH

Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, from 10AM-12Noon at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 918-4640.

EARTH DAY • APRIL 22TH

CITY BEAUTIFICATION DAY • APRIL 26TH

To learn more, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247 or [environ@morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:environ@morgan-hill.ca.gov)

MEASURE P WORKSHOP • APRIL 29TH

See article on page seven. Workshop will be held at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE

Morgan Hill residential streets are swept every two weeks on the day immediately following your scheduled recycling collection day; Friday customers are served on the following Monday. If you remove your vehicle from the street on your sweeping day, it will help South Valley's sweeper do the best job possible. Customers living on private streets and streets deemed unsweepable receive a slight discount on their garbage bill.

### CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor <b>Dennis Kennedy</b>	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore <b>Hedy L. Chang</b>	778-0511
Councilmember <b>Larry Carr</b>	779-9622
Councilmember <b>Greg Sellers</b>	778-2370
Councilmember <b>Steve Tate</b>	779-6992
City Clerk <b>Irma Torrez</b>	779-7259
City Treasurer <b>Michael Roorda</b>	778-3653

### CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager <b>J. Edward Tewes</b>
City Attorney <b>Helene L. Leichter</b>
Assistant To The City Manager <b>Melissa Stevenson Dile</b>
Assistant To The City Manager <b>Anthony Eulo</b>
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director <b>Garrett Toy</b>
Community Development Director <b>David Bischoff</b>
Council Services and Records Manager <b>Irma Torrez</b>
Finance Director <b>Jack Dilles</b>
Human Resources Director <b>Mary Kaye Fisher</b>
Police Chief <b>Gerald T. Galvin</b>
Public Works Director <b>Jim Ashcraft</b>
Recreation and Community Services Manager <b>Julie Spier</b>

### CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assist. & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Community & Cultural Center	782-0008
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation & Community Services	782-0008
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278
City Hall Fax Number	779-3117
City Website: <a href="http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov">http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov</a>	

### CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome.

Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or

[environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov). City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

CITY VISIONS  
CITY OF MORGAN HILL  
17555 PEAK AVENUE  
MORGAN HILL, CA 95037

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